



Town of Mount Airy
Water & Sewer Commission

How to Safely Dispose of Prescription Medications & Over-the-Counter Drugs

What harm do drugs do?



The health and safety of our town is of utmost importance. Medications poured down the drain or flushed down toilets end up in our waterways and ultimately may impact the quality of our drinking water. Our wastewater treatment plants cannot remove the chemicals in those medications. Medicine discarded in the trash can also leach into water supplies. Medicines such as antibiotics, hormones and contraceptives, antidepressants, and pain relievers have been discovered in waterways nationwide.

The risks of such chemicals in our waterways and drinking water include damage to wildlife. Documented studies have demonstrated sex reversals in fish and the development of fish with both male and female reproductive organs. These chemicals also facilitate the development of antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria. Because of these and other harmful effects, the Town of Mount Airy recommends that residents properly dispose of unwanted medications.

Don't Rush to Flush!

DO NOT flush prescription medications or over-the-counter (OTC) products in the toilet or dump them down the drain. Ingredients in many medications are harmful to the environment and will seep into our streams, rivers, Chesapeake Bay, and potentially into our drinking water. Dumping medicine in the trash also can cause harm. Not only can animals get into garbage and ingest the medications, but rainwater dissolves the medications and the chemicals will leach out of the landfill and into our waterways.



Do Dropoff Meds - Mount Airy residents can bring their unwanted or expired medication prescriptions and over the counter (OTC) drugs to the collection center at the **Mount Airy Police Station** - 205 Center Street, Suite 203, Mount Airy, MD 21771 where they will be disposed of properly. Please seal liquids in a leak-proof plastic bag and remove personal information on the container labels. Drop-off times are Monday through Friday 9 am - 5 pm.

Please direct questions to the police department: 301-703-1375

THANK YOU!